



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo
Public Information Officer
301-600-2590
TTY: Use Maryland Relay
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 21, 2013

COMMISSIONERS REDUCE HUNDREDS OF FEES TO BENEFIT BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS IN FREDERICK COUNTY

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today announced that over 200 fees associated with doing business with Frederick County Government have been reduced or eliminated since the board was sworn into office on December 1, 2010. As the board moves toward adopting a fiscally responsible FY2014 Operating Budget on June 6, county divisions and departments have completed a final review of not only cost-cutting measures taken to balance the budget, but additional efforts to provide relief to businesses and taxpayers with the goal of improving the quality of life in Frederick County.

Board President Blaine Young emphasized, “As we have been saying since day one in office, Frederick County is ‘open for business’ and we are no longer operating under the philosophy of ‘business as usual.’ Therefore, we make no excuse for boasting of the many ways we have reduced the burden on businesses and taxpayers from county fees, added expenses and excessive time and effort to comply with out-of-date rules and regulations, especially during these challenging economic times in which we live. Our recent research points to the fact that one of the most beneficial ways we have helped taxpayers is by allowing them to keep more money in their pockets instead of paying excessive county fees.

“By contrast, consider the image our own state of Maryland has of penny-pinching its citizens and fostering an anti-business atmosphere. Recent information from [Change Maryland](#) noted 40 different tax, fee and toll increases in Maryland since 2007 that will result in a cumulative impact totaling around \$9.5 billion by 2014. Worse yet, that number is expected to rise to \$20 billion by 2018.

(more)

“For our part, we are proud that Frederick County has worked diligently to create more jobs by fostering a business-friendly environment and eliminating unnecessary government taxation and regulation. This board made it a priority to set up a strategic goal of providing improved predictability in the business community by reducing inefficiencies, allowing cost control, providing an effective process and increasing understanding in daily business processes within Frederick County Government.

“Both the business-friendly listing and the [fee reduction listing](#) compiled by our divisions and departments are impressive and we applaud the hard work of our employees to reduce the fees and help our taxpayers. We also commend our divisions for working diligently to help businesses and individuals more easily and efficiently navigate their way through the local government process.”

A spreadsheet of Frederick County Government fee reductions lists 202 total fees reduced or eliminated from the Division of Community Development (170), Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management (24), Health Department (2) and six others. For example, the Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management has reduced or eliminated fees for the cost of a water and sewer inspection, reviews and site-plans, bulk water, Miss Utility inspections, solid waste tipping, and many other items.

The Permits & Inspections and Planning & Development Review Departments of the Community Development Review Division have revised fees for a permit filing, a business license, garage, swimming pool, residential and nonresidential alteration or conversion, certificate of occupancy, dishwasher or water heater replacement, master plumber license renewal, electrical permits, fire code plan reviews and inspections, planning and development fees, and many others.

Visit the “[business friendly action items](#)” listing to review changes to rules and regulations made on behalf of the county commissioners. A listing of fees that have been reduced or eliminated may be found at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/hottopics.

For further information, contact the Division of Community Development at 301-600-1138 or the Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management at 301-600-1825.

###